

KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue. Guest editors will appear occasionally.

WORDPLAY ON THE ROAD

Last June my son Danny and I visited Richard and Simone Lederer in Concord NH for a week. Ross and Faith Eckler made the trek from Morristown NJ for two days. While the weather was on-again-off-again, the wordplay was always on.

Since we were on vacation, we went to some vacation places, but with people like the Ecklers and the Lederers, even an innocent visit to a SHAKER village is full of puns (SHAKE 'ER) and anagrams (ASK HER). A tasty barbecue dinner likewise becomes the occasion for discussions on enigmas and other word puzzles. During rides from one place to another, from one bookstore to another, the conversation inevitably turned to wordplay, which sometimes turned to the question "Did we turn the right way?"

On the final full day, Rich, Danny and I took a drive to the White Mountains. Danny sat in the back seat and alternated between looking at the scenery and reading *Falling Up*, Shel Silverstein's new collection of poems. Rich and I were having ongoing discussions on wordplay, but Danny, at age seven, wasn't familiar with most of the topics. Still he wanted to join in on the conversation. To do so, he'd wait for a pause in our words and say "Here's a really good poem. You want to hear it?" And then he'd read the poem and another one or two for an encore.

At one point, the conversation turned to the topic of anagrams of the name DANIEL. I said that I'd found DENIAL, and Rich added NAILED. We tried finding others, and I wrote them down on a bag from the last fast-food restaurant we'd toured. Surprisingly, many other anagrams fit together to form a poem about Daniel Rostenkowski, the scandal-racked Congressman who quit his job a few months ago. In fact, it almost sounds like a normal newspaper caption, and it serves as a souvenir of wordplay that just happened to happen one fine day on the road through the mountains of New Hampshire:

AN IDLE LEAD-IN AD LINE: DANIEL, NAILED IN DEAL
(I.E., LAND IN DALE), LED IN A DENIAL AND LIE

CANDIDATE PALINDROMES

Now the time has come to exercise our American right to vote and to put the candidates' names into palindromes. Here are four to help you make your election-day choice on November 8. The Dole one is a Democratic mock of his convention pledge to be a bridge to the past:

Not nil: CLINTON

Rise? No, GORE hero gone, Sir

Snap's foe "DOLE, be lode of spans!"

Had I KEMP? Me, kid? Ah!

TAFT: FAT

Of all the American presidents, William Howard Taft's last name fits into the shortest, most appropriate palindrome--TAFT, FAT--which calls attention to his legendary portliness. HARRISON is the only name that makes a complete reversal, NO, SIRRAH. NIXON fits into a palindrome--NO X IN NIXON--that's made of letters that look the same upside down. (But it is obviously untrue.) Here are a few more chief-executive palindromes; Bush's could have been uttered by Dan Quayle.

God! ADAMS is mad--a dog

No? Si? Damn MADISON!

O, note: Vote! Or no MONROE to veto. No!

Raw? Tap Marty VAN BUREN. One rub: Navy tramp at war

Now rely--TYLER won

To last, CARTER retracts a lot [by Edward Scher and others]

I'm a BUSH sub, am I?

DOLE SQUARED

"Is it true that Dole is too old and too 'square' to be President?" Monte Zenger asks. "I turned to the letter-number code (A=1, B=2, etc.) discussed in the 'Self-Referential Math' section of the May 1996 Kick-shaws to help me find answers. As Mary Chapin-Carpenter sang in her hit song I Feel Lucky, 'The stars may lie but the numbers never do'".

1. (DOL)E = (OLD)E

2. DOLE contains four letters and begins with the 4th one, while KEMP also contains four letters and ends with the 16th one. Four is the first non-trivial square number, and a square has four sides. Sixteen is the square of 4. Dole has joked publicly that DOLE and KEMP are two four-letter words you can and should use.

3. ROBERT JOSEPH DOLE contains sixteen letters.

4. Astrologically, Dole is a Cancer, the 4th sign of the Zodiac. (So is his wife Elizabeth and his running mate, Kemp.)

5. Applying the letter-number code to DOLE, we obtain 36, a square. Adding to that the value of KEMP (45), we obtain the presidential ticket value of 81, another square.

6. ELEPHANT, the symbol of the GOP (Grand OLD Party), also has a letter-number value of 81. Curiously, the elephant is a symbol of longevity in the countries it inhabits.

OFFICIAL STATE PALINDROMES

Since the states have their official birds and flowers, they also deserve to have official palindromes. Surprisingly, New York is the only state that's been granted that privilege: NOT NEW YORK, ROY WENT ON (by the immortal Leigh Mercer). Here are 24 more, completing half the job. Some use names and abbreviations, but none uses obsolete or made-up words. (ROLF is in Webster's 10th, NIMOY is familiar to Star Trekkers, SENNETT is an old-time film director, and DAR is the Daughters of the American Revolution, a patriotic organization.) I feel a special connection with the 16th palindrome on the list. The next step is to petition the states to include the palindromes on their flags. Can you improve on these or provide examples for the missing states?

To id, it's ALABAMA. Mab, a last idiot
 Had ALASKA, etc., teak salad--ah!
 We let ARIZONA fan Oz, irate Lew
 Back COLORADO DAR? O, lock cab
 No DELAWARE raw ale, Don
 One poem, an aside: FLORIDA, had I rolfed? Is a name open? O!
 HAWAII--aw! ah!
 He yawned "Lost IDAHO had its olden way. eh?"
 Tie USS ILLINOIS? Simple help mission! I'll issue it
 To lax INDIANA I'd nix a lot
 'Tis IOWA law! (O, is it?)
 I made KANSAS, as naked am I
 I do get arisen--I am MAINE's irate god, I!
 No, help MISSISSIPPI's sis. Simple, hon
 Ma, I won Sara by no beer! O, MONTANA ran at no more ebony bar
 as now I am
 Do go to NEVADA, Dave--no, to God
 Not a bag, OHIO! I hog a baton
 Tap OKLAHOMA? Sam! O, Hal! KO Pat
 Max, is tacit OREGON nog erotic at six A.M.?
 Rat sees Sennett, TENNESSEE star
 No TEXAS sax, Eton
 No! In UTAH's hat, union!
 'Tis I, fine VERMONT. No, Mr., even if I sit
 No! WYOMING a bag Nimoy won?

JUNIOR CITIES AND ILLEGITIMATE CITIES

Junior Cities, discussed in a previous Kickshaw, are those named after their states (or countries) by placing the state name followed by City, such as Iowa City, Iowa, New York City, New York, and Kuwait City, Kuwait. At least one city is named after another state: Michigan City, Indiana. Are there any others?

COMPARATIVE SUPERLATIVE

Most adjectives have one comparative and superlative form--either the MORE-MOST form or the ER-EST form. Some have their own customized form, like GOOD-BETTER-BEST. Can you name one common three-letter adjective that has two comparative and superlative forms of the ER-EST variety? It's a good one, better than the best.

PSEUDONYM QUIZ

Some children's authors produce books under different names. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson published his sermons and mathematical works under his given name, and his literary works under his much more famous pseudonym, Lewis Carroll. Here are two other authors that did the same thing, Edward Lear and Theodore Seuss Geisel. Can you figure out which one of the alternative names did not appear on their books: LEAR Edward Lear, Derry Down Derry, Ed Lear; GEISEL Ted Geisel, Theo LeSeig, Dr. Seuss, Rosetta Stone?

IF A CANNER CAN CAN CANS

In the May Word Ways, the article "A Soup Can Can Can-Can; Can You?" discussed the results of a National Public Radio contest that challenged listeners to write a sentence using the same word four or more times. The winner strung out the word ROSE four times. Other people contributed longer repetitions, but they didn't win. Some contestants cheated by using a word like EVER over and over, as in "Don't you ever, ever, ever ... do that".

One cheater's repetition recently made national news. In a wire service article, James Kallstrom, heading the FBI investigation of the Flight 800 crash, refuted rumors that the plane was downed by friendly fire. His sentence: "I've said several times that friendly fire is highly, highly, highly, highly, highly unlikely."

REPEATED FOUR-LETTER RECURSIVES

Harry Partridge has some new additions to Peter Newby's challenge to come up with palindromes having three or more of the same letter in a row. The term Lama Glama, Harry writes "is, of course, the generic & specific name of the llama according to my friend Kiphclorfa Gespera." Here are his four-square dromes:

They Honk 'Ooga': A goose zoo oozes 'Ooga'

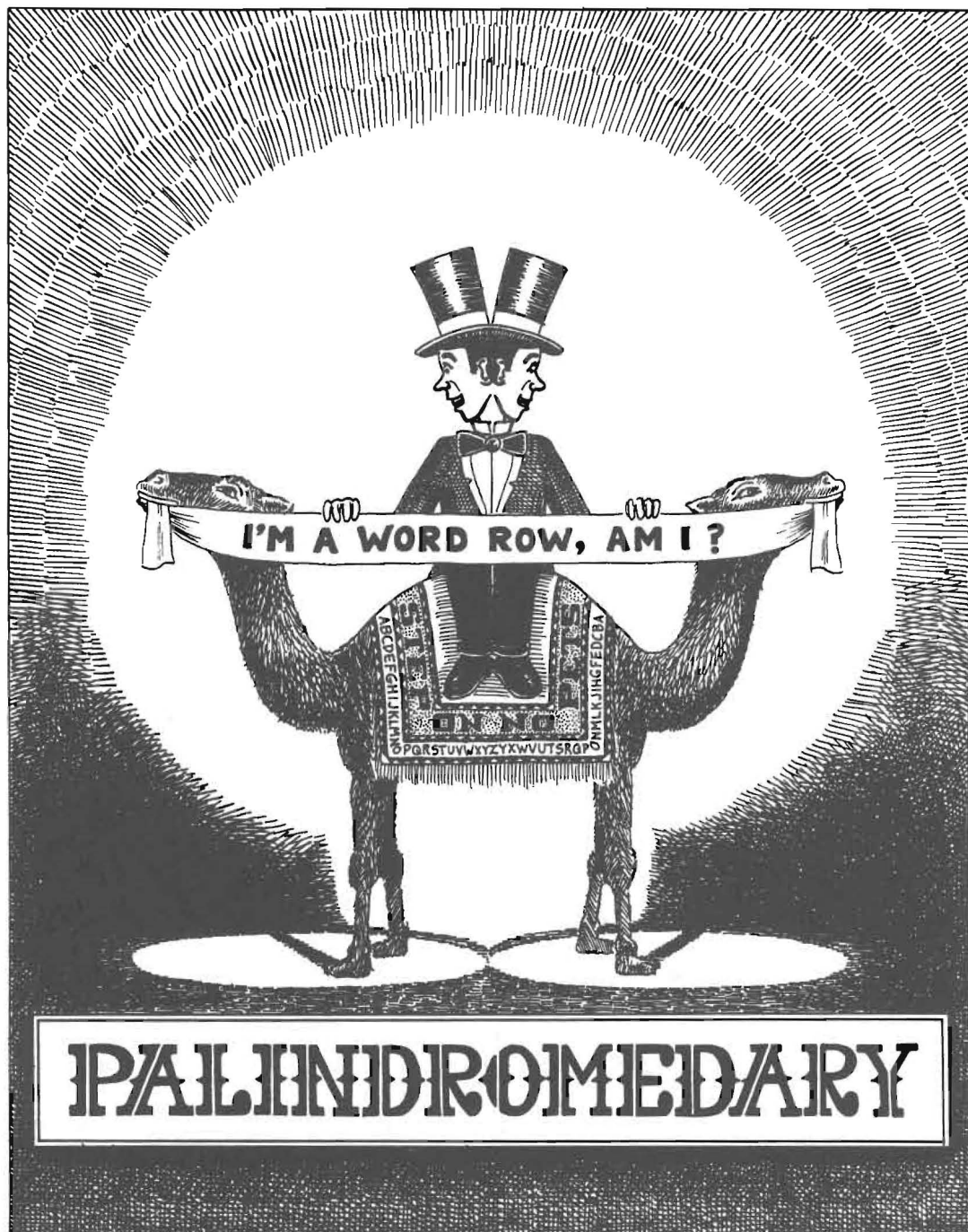
Red, Don't Eat What Eels Eat or Don't Let Eels Eat You:

Red, do flee eel fodder

Colloquy Between Two Camelids:

No. 1 says, accusatorially, 'Amalgamal lama glama'

No. 2 replies, justificatorily, 'I am all llama, I'



NUMERICAL PUZZLE

Leonard Gordon has composed the following numerical expressions, each of which has the same special feature. Can you figure out what it is? Can you come up with other examples?

SIX + SEVEN = THIRTEEN
 SIX + EIGHT = FOURTEEN
 TEN + EIGHT = EIGHTEEN
 TEN + EIGHT = NINE + NINE
 TEN + SIX + ONE = EIGHT + NINE
 NINE + THIRTY-THREE = TWENTY + TWENTY-TWO
 THIRTEEN + TWENTY-TWO = SEVENTEEN + EIGHTEEN
 THREE + SEVEN + TWELVE = THIRTEEN + ONE + EIGHT

POLYGONAL BALANCE: THE SEQUEL

Susan Thorpe writes "This is a sequel to 'Polygonal Balance' (Kick-shaws, August 1996), in which, assigning A=1, B=2, etc., 3- to 12-sided polygons were each given a numerically-balanced description such as A TETRAGON (101) ... FOUR-SIDED (101). But the sides and -GONS have gone and now it is the turn of the -HEDRONS. In combined form, HEDRON denotes the number of faces in a geometrical object. Thus, a TETRAHEDRON has four faces. So we can say of the POLYHEDRON (132) ... EACH HAS MANY FACES (132) and ...

DIHEDRON (77) ... TWO-FACED (77)
 ONE TRIHEDRON (145) ... THREE FACES OBJECT (145)
 TETRAHEDRON (128) ... FOUR-FACED SHAPE (128)
 PENTAHEDRON (120) ... FIVE-FACETED ONE (120)
 THE HEXAHEDRON (135) ... SIX-FACES SHAPE (135)
 THE HEPTAHEDRON (147) ... HAS SEVEN FACETS (147)
 OCTAHEDRON (103) ... EIGHT FACETS (103)
 THE ENNAHEDRON (136) ... WITH NINE FACES (136)
 THE DECAHEDRON (110) ... A TEN-FACED OBJECT (110)
 THE HENDECAHEDRON (137) ... ELEVEN-FACED OBJECT (137)
 THE DODECAHEDRONS (148) = EACH TWELVE-FACETED (148)

Names exist for some of the larger -HEDRONS, for example ICOSITETRAHEDRON (183) ... A TWENTY-FOUR FACE (183)."

THE CREATURES OF LOGOLOGY

Susan has found the names of two creatures in *Nomenclator Zoologicus* which also belong in *Nomenclator Logologicus*. She describes their alphabetical qualities: "The 11-letter KILIMANJARO has appeared in *Word Ways* as the shortest word containing the alphabetically-consecutive letters I,J,K,L,M,N and O. But these 7 letters also appear in KOLJUMBINA, a trilobite, which has only 10 letters. XYZZORS is a nematode worm. Are there any other words that begin with the letters XYZ- in alphabetical order, or is it unique?"

KANGAROO SPORTS CHALLENGE

Following up "Of Kangaroos and Joeys" in the May 1996 Word Ways, Richard Lederer poses this challenge. Name three professional sports teams from the major leagues of football, baseball, basketball and hockey that are kangaroo words each concealing a second professional team as a joey. Use the team name, not the city--COWBOYS, for example. Remember that the letters in the joey cannot be solid: ART in cARToon is not valid, but CAN in ContAiNer is.

FROM BABY BOOM TO BABY BUST

On a local TV station, the news anchor informed the world of an obvious statistic. His exact words: "There were fewer babies born in Iowa last year than there were in the past 100 years."

THE PALINDROMIC BATTLE OF THE SEXES

In this poem each line is a palindrome revolving around the same word. It's about the age-old conflict known as the RAW SEXES' WAR:

Spot sexes' tops	Nab sexes' ban	Span sexes naps	Sore sexes' Eros
Pat sexes' tap	Loot sexes' tool	Top sexes' pot	Straw sexes' wart
Swap sexes' paws	Wed sexes' dew	Drab sexes' bard	Doom sexes' mood
Part sexes' trap	Loop sexes' pool	Tops sexes' spot	Trap sexes' part

Snap sexes' pans	Edit sexes' tide	Snug sexes' guns	Emit sexes' time
Tip sexes' pit	Mad sexes' dam	Tab sexes' bat	Rats! Sexes star
Stop sexes' pots	Snip sexes' pins	Regal sexes' lager	Now sexes won
'Til sexes lit	Mar sexes' ram	Taps sexes' spat	Raw sexes' war

DYLSEXIA ... ER, DYSLEXIA

Monte Zenger was inspired by Richard Lederer's DYSLEXIA = DAILY SEX anagram in the last Kickshaws--so inspired, in fact, that "an odd little vignette emerged from somewhere in the shadows of my consciousness." In it, his own anagrams and those of others (plus one charade) tell a sad tale indeed:

It starts innocently enough--a single flower: ROSE = EROS
 Then ... Oh, the passion! MATES = STEAM; BELOVED = BED LOVE
 And although we're blinded to our situation, it's sure fun!

DAILY SEX = DYSLEXIA

Until MARRIAGE = A GRIM ERA; MOTHER-IN-LAW = WOMAN "HITLER"
 We seek help. but: THERAPIST = THE RAPIST

Even wonder about our cat's life: NEUTER = RETUNE

Before conclude "There must be a better way" DIVORCES = DISCOVER

And that perhaps the best fun still lies ahead, so what does it
 matter? FUNERAL = REAL FUN

THE YEARLY QUESTION

In the last Word Ways, Monte's article "Calendar Curiosa" gave logological arguments for March beginning the new year. However, there is one basic argument in favor of April 8: it's the first day alphabetically. However, if you use the -th variation, then April 18th is the first. This raises another question: if the days of the year are arranged alphabetically, how many (if any) appear in the same order as they now appear in the January 1 to December 31 arrangement? There are two answers, one for the -th version and one for the non-th version. Are there any dates that appear in the same position in all three orderings?

CALENDAR PIANISSIMO

Monte came up with an incredibly appropriate relationship between time and music: "One can use a piano to remember whether a month as 30 or 31 days. Play an F scale and the alternation of white and black keys will exactly correspond to the months that have 31 days and those that have 30 or fewer days, respectively."

KEY	COLOR	MONTH	DAYS
F	white	January	31
F#	black	February	28 (or 29)
G	white	March	31
G#	black	April	30
A	white	May	31
A#	black	June	30
B	white	July	31
C	white	August	31
C#	black	September	30
D	white	October	31
D#	black	November	30
E	white	December	31

GREEEEEEETING CARD

Did you ever wonder what happened to all those e's that Ernest Vincent Wright didn't use in his e-less novel, *Gadsby*? The American Greetings Co. bought them up and used them in a recent greeting card. The front of the card is completely covered with row after row of e's. Inside, the caption says "Thought you'd like to get some e-mail!"

FLEX ELF

Peter Newby sends this news from New Bybwen: "The Flex Elf (a palindromist's muse) keeps whispering into my ear, distracting me from more serious matters. I know that your bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms has ATF on the caps of its law enforcement division, but what does your bureau of Salami, Horses, Iowans, and Turnips have on its hat? [Editor's note: it's actually called the bureau of Turnips, Horses,

Iowans, and Salami, and everyone in Iowa knows THIS.] Why couldn't they have called themselves Firearms, Alcohol, and Tobacco? Or even Alcohol, Firearms, and Tobacco? And who decided against a bureau of Firearms, Alcohol, Rubber, and Tobacco? [Editor's note: the bureau of Guns, Alcohol, and Styrofoam lobbied against it.]

The Flex Elf informs me that EN MASS is an acceptable variation on EN MASSE, at least as far as English is concerned. He mentioned this in connection with a possible new war crimes trial in England for a now 80-year-old Eastern European who, so the Flex considers, might well use the standard defence: S.S. AMNESIA IS EN MASS.

BULLETINS FROM NEW BYBWEN

Here are two short anecdotes that Peter tells about New Bybwen's finest. The characters' names haven't been changed to protect the palindromic:

Era Bare, New Bybwen's nudist colony, was the setting for Red Dalby Bladder's lovefest with the teledu (stinking badger of Java and Sumatra) and naturally the press was in full attendance. The female stinking badger was chained to a tree at one end of the playing field, and Dalby was in full rampant posture at the other end. As soon as Dalby judged the moment fruitful, he yelled at the club secretary WO, NUDE, LET TELEDU ... NOW!

Tessa Basset, the very pretty secretary of the New Bybwen branch of the Anglo-Russian Society, has discovered that KSAR is an old spelling of tsar, czar, or what-have-you, and that Peter the Great once visited the famous palindromic borough. Apparently, Peter was a victim of sleeping sickness and was frequently observed to rask (yawn) so much that he used yawning as a synonym for modes of speech such as in his celebrated palindddrome KSAR: 'IS SELF LESS SELFLESS? I RASK.

THE PROVERBIAL PUN

Peter writes "The indefatigable Pewtery has been researching Tudor proverbs during the course of which he discovered that BROTHE (meaning 'impetuous, violent, passionate, wrathful') has also functioned as a noun with that same meaning, and that POYLE is an old form of 'pulley'. Apparently Henry VIII, for reasons of economy, used his catering staff as part-time torturers but ordered the immediate execution of any caterer who tried the royal patience by subjecting his impetuous, violent, passionate or wrathful minions to the rack. His Majesty's famous proclamation read: TOMB ANY COOKS POYLE YE BROTHE."

ANAMINIGRAM

Peter Newby has come up with a wordsmith's riddle, and it's a political piece at that:

Q: What's the difference between FERGIE and an anagram?

A: You get full value from an anagram but the most you get from FERGIE is GRIEF!

OPSIMATHIC

Jay Ames is an aficionado of weird words. In fact, they inspire him to take up the challenge to use them in poems. The following packs several unusual words into just eight lines:

No liripoop, no omadhaun,
no know-it-all in spades,
this leprechaunic opsimath
flits featly through the shades.

Adaxographic isn't moi
(I'm much more the reverse)
and handed any wild, weird word
break into terse werse verse.

MONOVOWELIC NAMES

Awhile back I listed SCHWICKRSTH as the longest name with only one vowel, but Ross and others have pointed out that it's probably a spelling error. In searching the Toronto telephone book, Jay discovered numerous monovowellic names of five to eight letters, which were printed in a previous Kickshaws. Jay also wrote that he "did unearth a surprising number of monovowellic surnames in all parts of Ma Bell's Bible for the Toronto edition". Here's a sample of the monovowellics in A:

Andie ABD, Steve AGH, Ralph ALM, G. ALT, Chriss AMM, Sin ANN,
Bernie APPS, D. ARCH, Dave ARN, John Wm. ARPS, Philo ART, Natan
ARY, Aud ASHBY, Doug ASP, Chris ATTSZ, Jo Anne ACS, Soo Song AHN,
Byron ALP, Victor ANG, L. APS, Peter ARNDS, Lydia ARTS, C. ASCH,
Samanth ASHRY, Paul AST, S. AVDYC, D.D. AGG, Bettie ALL, Abdul ALY,
Elson Harcourt ALS, Yansum ANH, J.B. APP, P. ARM, Bonnie ARNDT,
B. ARTZ, Addie ASH, George ASRY, Alice ATT, M. AY, Joe AZMY

CLUSTERINGS

Jay has also found some names that he calls clusterings, in which unfamiliar collections of letters appear. Below is a small but impressive group. It seems to me that the third name ranks as the most difficult to pronounce in the world except for the 15-letter QQXMWQHLLIJBDRB, which I just made up.

RAMCHANDARAN, ZVRDZDGRAUDIS, DEMSZCZYSZCZYB

The second has an eight-consonant group, and the third only one vowel if Y is regarded as a consonant.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Speaking of pronunciation, the Guinness Book of World Records used to list THE SIXTH SICK SHEIK'S SIXTH SHEEP'S SICK as the hardest to pronounce, but after a few practice tries it's easy. For a more convoluted challenge, try saying both of these twisters, one after the other, five times rapidly without making a mistake: CHICKS' CHIC CLIQUE CLIPS CHIP'S CLIFFS; SLEEK SHEETS SQUEEZE SLEEP'S STEEP SCREECH.

GISH AND GOOCH

Nyr Indictor writes "In some Kickshaws article, you mentioned multiple readings of GHOTI (pronounced 'fish'). Since any of these letters may be silent, the number of readings is quite high. I believe the following conversation between two people named Gish and Gooch can be rewritten, substituting GHOTI for each syllable.

GISH Hi, Gooch.

GOOCH Hi, Gish, Got fish?

GISH Got fish?! I poach fish! Got a hot pot?

GOOCH Oh, I got a hot pot.

GISH A fit! Gooch got a hot pot, I got fish.

GOOCH Pooh! A goat fish. Pity. Pitch it.

GISH Aw... Oh, I got a goat. Go, Gooch, go poach goat.

GOOCH I go.

WINTERIZED POETRY

'Tis the season to buy presents, wear warmer clothes, drink hotter coffee, and write wintry poetry by the fireplace. Here's a frosty parody of a famous Frost poem, STOPPED BY HOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING:

Whose hoods these are I think I know.
His hide-out's in the village, though.
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his hoods remove my dough.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop for men with masks so near,
Two burly hoods, who want to take
My money at this time of year.

He kicks the robbers till they break
The ice upon the frozen lake.
The only other sound's the steep
And chilly splash their bodies make.

The hoods are ugly, wet, and deep,
But I have money still to keep,
And miles to go before they sleep,
And miles to go before they sleep.